

To whom it may concern @ FCC:

I've read in the papers and heard on public as well as private radio and television broadcasts the situation regarding Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election. In many cases the discussion revolved around the legality of this given the public airwaves. And I feel this is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation if not addressed in this particular case.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. If Sinclair is allowed to do this without ruling from or comment from the FCC, then every major media company may overtly try to influence public policy and public debate.

I am concerned that this situation unresponded to will undermine the fulfillment of democracy in our country. I fear this situation worsening such that left unchecked propaganda rather than news/analysis will grow. I am all for free speech and varying points of view having an opportunity to present themselves via the public mediums -- but not as conducted by Sinclair Broadcasting in this case.

You need to get involved here, and I urge you to.

Thank you.

Tom Harbeck
Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.